(b) the number of persons killed and kidnapped by militants during the said period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to contain the militant activities in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) 5754 ULFA militants/supporters have been arrested by security forces/police during the period January 1 to October 31, 1991.

(b) During the same period, 109 persons have been killed and 95 persons kidnapped by militants.

(c) Steps taken to contain the militant activities in Assam include-

(i) Declaration of the State of Assam, Tirap and Changlang districts of Arunachal Pradesh and a 20 Km. belt along the borders of Assam with Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Nagaland, including the entire Mon district, as 'disturbed area' under the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958;

(ii) Deployment of Army and para-military forces to aid the civil authority in Assam;

(iii) Declaration of the ULFA as an Unlawful Association; and

(iv) Co-ordinated and planned operations by the Security Forces/ Police.

[*English*]

Entry of Foreign Agents into Colour Processing Trade

*255. SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the colour photo processing enterprise in the North Eastern region has been affected by the entry of foreign agents into the trade who take to unfair practice of undercutting; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to control the situation in view of the strategic character of photographic materials from defence point of view?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) No such information has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Telecommunication Technology

*256. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD
SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several leading foreign companies have offered their services to help the Department of Telecommunications with modern technology to meet the demand;

(b) if so, the names of such foreign companies;

(c) the decision of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The name of the Companies are placed on the Table of the House.